PR

SEPTEMBER 2: 23rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

VIETNAM COURIER

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> "VIET NAM has the right to be a free and independent country — and in fact it is so already. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilize all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their independence and liberty."
>
> *Excerpt from the*
> **Declaration of Independence**
> *September 2, 1945*

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NATIONAL DAY 23rd ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED IN HANOI

"MORE BRILLIANT VICTORIES ARE AWAITING US!"

Declares Premier PHAM VAN DONG

TO mark the 23rd anniversary of the August 1945 Revolution and National Day, September 2, a solemn meeting was held in Hanoi in the presence of President Ho Chi Minh and many leaders of the Party and the State.

Premier Pham Van Dong delivered on this occasion an important political speech, which will be published in our next issue.

The Prime Minister evoked the tradition of indomitable struggle of the Vietnamese people for national independence, a tradition which is at present being continued in the form of the resistance war to American aggression. This war which is growing ever more victorious, he stressed, has entered a new stage since the Lunar New Year, with powerful general attacks and simultaneous uprisings by the South Viet Nam people's forces. The American aggressors have been forced to abandon on the quiet their "search-and-destroy" and "pacification" strategy for a new one considered more "realistic": "clear-and-hold." But their mop-ups are only occasion for more crimes against the Vietnamese people without allowing them in the least to "hold" in face of repeated assaults by our Southern compatriots.

The Prime Minister emphasized the obduracy of the American leaders who, in spite of their pitiful situation on the Viet Nam battlefield and growing opposition from all social strata in the United States, persist in their neo-colonialist designs, intensify their war of aggression and strive to patch up the puppet administration and army in their pay.

He recalled that "the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and, more recently, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces have severely condemned the Saigon puppet regime and called on the people of South Viet Nam to fight it resolutely, thereby crushing the will for aggression of the United States... As the N.F.L. has declared, the entire Vietnamese people are determined to struggle until final victory, until there remains not a single American aggressor in South Viet Nam."

The Prime Minister devoted part of his speech to defining the place held by the D.R.V.N., born of the August

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A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED VICTORIES

THE STRENGTH OF A POLITICAL PROGRAMME

OUR South Viet Nam compatriots, heroic in the fighting, have also evinced great creativeness in the choice of a political line susceptible of mobilizing the whole people to fight against U.S. aggression and for national salvation and thereby bringing about victory.

A PROGRAMME OF BROAD NATIONAL UNION

AT a moment when the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys were intensifying the war and at the same time reviving the myth of a sham independence and a faked democracy, holding elections to a puppet national assembly, to the presidency and vice presidency of a republic entirely created with U.S. dollars and propped up by U.S. bayonets, the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. expressed universal feelings:

"Having experienced over 20 years of war, our Southern fellow-countrymen eagerly wanted to live in peace and rebuild our war-devastated country. But the U.S. imperialists thwarted this legitimate aspiration. Consequently, our people have been forced to fight them to win peace in independence. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. Only when real independence is secured can we have genuine peace!"

A strong light was thus thrown on the nature of the aggressor. His criminal levellings of our villages, spraying of toxic chemicals to destroy our crops, our fields and our forests, use of dollars, unsold goods and the American way of life to deprave South Vietnamese society in areas under their control, aroused bitter hatred among all sections of the South Vietnamese people, in the countryside as well as in the cities.

To achieve identity of views and unity of action among the 14-odd million fellow countrymen of the South, the Political Programme couched in precise terms the lines of the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation:

"The present tasks and objectives of the South Vietnamese people in the struggle for national salvation are: to unite the entire people, resolutely fight and defeat the U.S. war of aggression, overthrow the U.S.-paid puppet administration, establish a broad national democratic coalition administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and proceed towards the peaceful reunification of the country."

For the accomplishment of these tasks, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. once again called for the broadest national

(Continued page 4)

Big Victories on Tay Ninh Front

BETWEEN AUGUST 18 AND 25

P.L.A.F. men in action.

4,000 U.S.-Puppet Soldiers Killed or Wounded.

600 Military Vehicles Destroyed or Captured.

37 Heavy Guns Put out of Action.

25 Planes and Choppers Downed.

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***SUPPLEMENT*:**

Political Programme of Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces

PARIS TALKS' 19th SESSION

THE 19th session of the official conversations between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S. was held in Paris on August 28.

Taking first the floor, Minister of State Xuan Thuy dismissed the oft-repeated and preposterous contentions of the U.S. authorities, especially with regard to the origin of the war in Viet Nam and the cause of the lack of progress of the Paris talks.

He said, "Reality has proved that the war in Viet Nam originated from the U.S. Government's policy of aggression and systematic sabotage of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, particularly from its committing of more than half a million U.S. troops and 60,000 troops of its satellites to an aggression against South Viet Nam and unprovoked air and naval attacks on the D.R.V.N., which acts have bared the cynical aggressive nature of the U.S. to the whole world."

The U.S. rulers claimed that they only sought "limited objectives" in Viet Nam, but Mr. Xuan Thuy pointed out that as Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese, not to the United States, the U.S. Government has no right to invade South Viet Nam, attack the D.R.V.N. and play the role of an international gendarme in South-East Asia. The so-called U.S. "limited objectives" in Viet Nam are nothing short of a U.S. scheme to annex South Viet Nam and impose its neo-colonialist rule on it.

The D.R.V.N. chief negotiator ridiculed Mr Johnson's promises to "expand education, cultivation and disease treatment" in Viet Nam as hypocritical and paradoxical propositions on the part of aggressors who have been daily razing to the ground schools, hospitals, villages and cities and dropping bombs, napalm and toxic chemicals on both parts of Viet Nam. He said that the movement against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam had been gaining in strength every day among the American people of all strata, especially now that the presidential election campaign was gearing up in the United States. He foretold that if the U.S. authorities continued to challenge the aspirations of the American people by pursuing their unjust and useless war in Viet Nam, their failure would be left in no doubt.

The marking time of the Paris talks, the D.R.V.N. representative said, is due to the U.S. insistent demand for "reciprocity" and its refusal to stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. He criticized President Johnson's August 19, 1968 Detroit speech and said that what the U.S. chief executive described as a basis for an "honorable peace" in Viet Nam was actually a plan to continue U.S. aggression and neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and to prolong the division of Viet Nam.

Finally, he said to Mr. Harriman: "If the U.S. really wants to save its honour, there is no other alternative than putting an end to its unjust, colonial war of aggression, and respecting the Vietnamese people's right to live in independence and freedom and to seek happiness — which principles have been also laid down in the famous Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. U.S. persistence in its colonialist war of aggression will not bring about peace nor safeguard the honour of the U.S. To sum up, the U.S. must stop its war of aggression in Viet Nam, settle the Viet Nam problem on the basis of the 4 points of the Government of the D.R.V.N. and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, recognize the South Viet Nam N.F.L., let the people of South Viet Nam settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference, and, first of all, it must immediately and unconditionally stop its bombings and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. so that the Paris parley can proceed to other questions of interest to both parties. For more than three months now, by words and by deeds, the Vietnamese side has been unmistakably displaying its good will and readiness to move towards such a solution, whereas the U.S. side has been stubbornly refusing by devious means to agree to the main and prime purpose of the conversations, which purpose has time and again been made clear, thereby causing a deadlock in the conversations. The U.S. side had better stop its empty profession of peace, demagogic allegations, fallacious and perfidious manoeuvres, and take realistic steps towards a correct solution of the Viet Nam problem. Only thus can the Paris conversations make progress."

Speaking next, Mr. Harriman tried to deny the charges made by Mr. Xuan Thuy by repeating his old "North Viet Nam's aggression against South Viet Nam" and "North Viet Nam having no right to be in South Viet Nam" themes. He also said he had been instructed by Washington to protest against the D.R.V.N. side's intervention in the internal affairs of the United States at the official conversations as well as at press conferences in Paris.

Mr. Xuan Thuy disposed of these U.S. absurd allegations by saying: "The U.S. Government's instructions to Mr. Harriman are a ludicrous piece of pretence. It is the U.S. and none other that has been interfering in the internal affairs of the Vietnamese people and committing aggression against both parts of Viet Nam and meddling in the internal affairs of many other countries. The Vietnamese people have never interfered in the internal affairs of the United States. They only approve and support the American people's demand that the U.S. Government stop its aggressive war in Viet Nam and refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of the Vietnamese people."

He also denounced U.S. fresh innumerable crimes perpetrated in both South and North Viet Nam and reasserted the Vietnamese people's sacred right to oppose aggression in self-defence.

In conclusion, the D.R.V.N. envoy declared: "At the current talks, should the U.S. continue to behave the way it has been doing in the past three months, it would have to shoulder full responsibility for the consequences."

Hanoi Press Opinion

THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS' IMPASSE

WHY after all these violent controversies between the various factions of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, have there emerged finally as Presidential candidates two second-rate politicians: Nixon and Humphrey, who are equally reactionary, unimaginative, obstinate and bellicose in the Viet Nam issue? The main reason is that the predominant forces in both parties are at the end of their tether and up against tremendous difficulties encountered by the U.S. and that despite these difficulties they still persist in a reactionary and bellicose domestic and foreign policy. The tendency of both contending parties is an increasingly frequent use of counter-revolutionary violence, fascization at home and aggression abroad. Their complete identity of views finds a most vivid illustration in the Viet Nam war. The U.S. began coveting Indo-China at the end of World War II under a Democratic administration. But the first U.S. President to make "commitments" to Ngo Dinh Diem to torpedo the Geneva Agreements as soon as they were signed — thereby laying the foundation for the U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam—was no other else than Eisenhower, a Republican. And who are the zealous executors of the U.S. "special war", "local war" and then air war of destruction in Viet Nam under the Democratic administrations of John Kennedy and Johnson? They are the most prominent figures of the Republican Party such as Cabot Lodge, Mac Namara, Mc George Bundy. Though retired, Eisenhower has never ceased to countenance Johnson in his Viet Nam war escalation. Johnson's sabre-rattling speech of Aug. 19 was heartily approved by Nixon the Republican who once more came out against the cessation of bombing of North Viet Nam and held that no other U.S. president could have a point of view sensibly different from his.

What is new in the U.S. is that an important section of the electorate, chiefly the youth, has confidence neither in the Democratic Party nor in the Republican Party. A recent Gallup sounding reveals that both parties have lost votes: 40 per cent of electors under 30 declared themselves independent and would favour neither party.

Nhan Dan
(People)
August 25, 1968

JOHNSON'S AUGUST 19 SPEECH

THE point of view expounded by Johnson on August 19 last for a so-called peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam problem can boil down to the following points:

1 — The Americans will continue to bomb an important part of the territory of the D.R.V.N., a sovereign socialist country, in defiance of criticisms in the U.S. as well as in the world. Johnson had the cheek to declare: "This administration does not intend to move further until it has reason to believe that the other side intends seriously to join with us in de-escalating the war and moving seriously toward peace." This means that Johnson obstinately clings to the unreasonable demand of "reciprocity" and insists that our people relinquish their sacred self-defence right and let the Americans invade South Viet Nam without impunity.

2 — The Americans will continue to step up their war of aggression against South Viet Nam despite strong protest from all progressive mankind. Johnson shamelessly declared that he would "withdraw U.S. forces from South Viet Nam under the circumstances described in the Manila communique," i.e. only when the Yankees have turned the tide of the war in their favour and re-established "security," in other words, when they have subdued our people.

3 — The Americans will continue to hang on to South Vietnamese quislings. The U.S. President cynically stated that "All can vote in Viet Nam, all can run for office if they forsake violence and live by the constitution" (of traitors Thieu and Ky — *Ed.*). So he still nurtures the hope of forcing the South Vietnamese patriots who are the victors to lay down their arms, give up their legitimate fight and let the U.S. impose unresisted its neo-colonialism on them.

More than ever, Johnson proves himself to be most obdurate and toughest chieftain of the aggressors.

Quan Doi Nhan Dan
(People's Army)
August 25, 1968

More Brilliant Victories...

(Continued from page 1)

1945 Revolution, in the present struggle against American aggression, for national salvation. The Democratic Republic, he said, has evinced great vitality and immense capabilities. By her continuous growth, she has, on the one hand, played a pre-eminent role in achieving victory over the American imperialists, and on the other, actively prepared for the solution of great problems of socialism, which tomorrow will face the Vietnamese nation.

Speaking about the struggle on the diplomatic front, Mr Pham Van Dong said that the Paris talks have been used by the American leaders to soothe public opinion in the world and the United States and to cover up their policy and acts of aggression. That is why, finding themselves at the end of their tether, they have shown particular obduracy, clinging to the myth of an "aggression of South Viet Nam by North Viet Nam" and refusing to put an unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.

"It is the U.S. government," Mr Pham Van Dong declared, "which started the war of aggression in Viet Nam, in the North as well as in the South. It bears full responsibility for the war, for its crimes and all consequences thereof. All this should be made crystal clear and no ambiguity whatsoever should remain. Only on this condition could a correct solution be found which will put an end to the war and restore peace."

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the world movement of support to the Vietnamese people's struggle and reaffirmed the stand of the D.R.V.N. government in present-day international problems: to strive for the consolidation of the unity of the socialist camp, for the strengthening of the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, first and foremost for the tightening of ties of friendship between the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos in face of the aggressive designs of American imperialism.

Mr Pham Van Dong's speech ended with a resounding appeal to the nation: "Compatriots and fighters all over the country! To safeguard the fruits of the August Revolution, to defend the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, to liberate the South and advance towards peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, let us march forward! More brilliant victories are awaiting us!"

THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

UP TO AUGUST 29, 1968

3,121 U.S. aircraft were downed

Born and Grown Up Along with the Democratic Republic

SUCCEEDING the hot days of summer, autumn is coming, and wafts of ripening custard-apples are in the fresh breeze. Activity has redoubled in the airfield. At daybreak, when cockcrows begin to be heard coming in from far-away hamlets, the noise of engines revving up resounds all over the place. Ground crews, after completing their careful check-up, are handing over the planes to the pilots. The latter are briefed on their various assignments of the day: combat, patrol, or training, and all other necessary information.

Hai, a radio mechanic, is stepping down from a cockpit when he hears his name called. It's Nên, a pilot and Hai's childhood friend. They were born in the same little village on the outskirts of Hanoi, where the people grew rice and vegetables and raised silkworms. They used to graze buffaloes along the dyke and bathe in the silt-laden water of the Red River.

They came into the world in 1945, the year of a grisly famine. In the parched fields, there remained not a single rat or grasshopper, not the smallest bit of anything edible, animal or vegetal. The villagers went to town carrying their starving children in their arms and stood begging at the doors of posh restaurants, or rummaged in garbage heaps on the pavements for bits of leftovers. In their parents' miserable huts, Hai and Nên lay half-starved in their mothers' arms, with not enough strength left even to cry. Both of Hai's elder sisters and Nên's brother had died a few days before, like so many villagers. Heaven and earth were shrouded in sorrow.

One evening in late August, Hai's father, who worked at the Gia Lam railway repair workshop, hurried home, obviously carrying big news. He called Nên's father and other able-bodied men to his house and made a solemn announcement standing on his bamboo bed and holding a gold-starred red flag in his hands: "The people of Hanoi," he said in a ringing voice, "have risen up and occupied the Governor's Palace. Surrounding districts are being taken over. The Viet Minh Front calls on the entire nation to stand up, knock down the Japanese and French fascists and conquer independence." That whole episode was later recounted to Hai by his mother.

That very night, beating drums and tocsins and holding flaming torches, the villagers marched to the district centre, where they stormed the Japanese-held rice storehouse. At their head was Hai's father with a gold-starred red flag in his hands. The next morning, for the first time in many days, smoke rose from the village kitchens. Rice soup was fed to the children, and Hai and Nên were wrested back, as it were, from the jaws of death.

When the nation-wide resistance to the French attempt at reconquest broke out, Hai's father fought and died a hero's death in a hand-to-hand fight in one of the districts of Hanoi. Nên's father, at the head of a guerilla unit, clung to the land and the people and struggled doggedly on...

At present, Hai and Nên's native village has undergone tremendous changes. The ricefields yeild five tons of paddy per hectare per year, are crisscrossed with irrigation canals and dotted with fish ponds; the dyke slopes are teeming with herds of geese, and in times of drought, mechanical and electric pumps hum day and night...

As soon as American aircraft started attacking the North, Hai and Nên asked to join the armed forces. Both were enlisted in the air force. Nên went through pilot training, Hai became a radio mechanic. After their training, both were assigned to this airfield, where they have been working for nearly a year now. Nên has gone into action many times, flying planes looked after by Hai and other members of the ground crews. On one occasion, he shot down a *Phantom* right at the gate of Hanoi.

As he sits listening to Nên's voice through his earphones, Hai's heart beats quicker. In imagination, he sees his friend's energetic features and dark, keen eyes. He imagines Nên pouncing on an American formation or calmly warding off enemy blows. He recalls his friend as a child fighting doggedly against a bigger boy, the son of a local notable, and finally sending him sprawling on the ground with a vigorous head-blow on the belly! As a pilot Nên has recorded quite a few brilliant exploits, and is renowned for his initiative and aggressiveness. He is also well liked for his simplicity and modesty.

As for Hai, he is a top mechanic, one who never tires of learning and improving his skill. He is also known for his perseverance in solving the greatest mechanical headaches. "We are still very poor," he often says to himself, "and can't afford any waste." And so, by dint of ingenuity and hard work, he has put back into service many heavily damaged apparatuses.

Today, Nên's squadron is on combat duty. As the weapons crew busy themselves fitting shining cartridge bands to the guns, he sits in the grass talking with Hai. His father, now president of the local co-operative, has sent him a letter, a fairly long one, in which the old man talks to his son about the successes recorded at home. The letter ends with these lines, which sound like both a conclusion and an order: "You boys must fight with the utmost courage so as to show our gratitude to the Revolution, to the Party."

Before the assembled men, the political commissar talks about the recent exploits recorded by our people in Quang Nam and Da Nang: "In close co-ordination with the Great Front," he says, "our unit undertakes to translate into deeds Uncle Ho's exhortation: "For independence and freedom, our thirty-one million compatriots are resolved to overcome all difficulties and hardships, to fight and win!"

An emulation movement is in full swing in answer to Uncle Ho's appeal and in honour of both the anniversary of the August Revolution and National Day, September 2. Pilots, veterans and newcomers alike, have asked the unit party committee for the most difficult assignments, stating their determination to defeat American air pirates any time, any place and under all circumstances. The ground crews take the pledge to always see to the smooth and safe working condition of the engines, which is their own way of contributing to victories over the aggressors. On the men's helmets stirring slogans are stuck: "Surge forward, faithful to the tradition of the August Revolution!"—"Let's rush forward on the impetus of our victories and crush the American aggressors!"

Twenty-three years have elapsed since the people in Hai's and Nên's native village rose up and conquered power, freedom, independence, and started on the road which has led them to their present happy life. The son of the poor peasant of yore living on the bank of the Red River has become a jet pilot. His friend, whose father was a worker at the Gia Lam railway repair plant, is now a technician handling ultra-modern equipment entrusted to him by the fatherland. Like Nên and Hai, most of their mates are very young, ranging in age from 18 to 23. They were born and have grown up along with the revolution; continuing the tradition of their elders, they are determined to fight and win, for the independence and freedom of the fatherland.

The sun has risen over the lush fields. Aircraft in training flights have taken wing and are diving and climbing in the blue sky. From the command post, information keeps coming to the pilots about enemy air activities: the American air pirates are keeping up their savage attacks on the southern part of our country, and their recon flights over the remaining part of our land.

The alert sounds. Hai and other members of the ground crew on duty hurry to the planes and help the pilots into their cockpits. Engines rev up. Nên is in the second plane of the flight. The leader is a veteran who has so far downed eight American aircraft.

Drumbeats resound in neighbouring villages, calling on the militia to keep their eyes skinned.

The planes have taken off and climbed ever higher in the sky. Now they are heading south. Against the background of the azure autumn vault, their silvery wings shine in scintillating contrast...

Photo:

In a North Vietnamese airfield.

True Tale of People's War

A SHEPHERD

BUI XUAN KHAN, 25, a state farm worker in Vinh Linh north of the provincial military demarcation line, and his mates mind over one hundred buffaloes and oxen. The enemy has dropped on his grass-land a number of bombs one hundred times higher than that of his cattle; but his herd has been on the increase during the past three years — 21 calves and young buffaloes were added to his herd in 1967 — thanks to his care: in fact he and his mates have dug up to 12 cubic metres of underground shelter for each animal and trained the beasts to seek cover soon after an alert is gone.

One day B.52 planes carried out coordinate map bombing over his pasture-land. He succeeded in putting all his charge out of harm's way on the other bank of a river by guiding across the leading buffalo whose wooden rattle neck signalled the other animals to follow.

On another occasion, at midday, when Khan was grazing his cattle, a L.19 reconnaissance plane came from the other side of the demarcation line. Aware of its mission which was to detect targets for American bombers and long-range guns to strike at, he organized its hunting and together with his mates, hit the spotter which crashed at T.H., Cam Lo district, south of the demarcation line.

The Message of September 2

AUGUST 1968. *In the Red River delta, hundreds of thousands of peasants, and large numbers of workers and engineers are making good the damage caused by a violent typhoon. In homes and educational services, preparations are being made for the opening of the schools in September, and enrolment shows a marked increase compared with last year. In the South, N.F.L. forces have switched over to the offensive in Tay Ninh, in the Mekong delta, in the Danang region.*

Such is Viet Nam these days: a tireless people, a nation resolved to combat natural calamities as well as to fight foreign aggression, to safeguard its independence as well as to build its future.

Neither the Pentagon's desperate efforts nor the multiple stunts of American propaganda have been able to obscure this reality, this primary fact: the indication of Vietnamese national vigour, of Viet Nam's right to independence and freedom. This national vigour, this fierce determination to safeguard independence dates a long way back.

Thousands of years before Mr Johnson's native Texas became part of the American republic, the Vietnamese people had conquered from a harsh nature this land in which they had settled. They harnessed powerful rivers, built dykes, canals, parcelled out the land, and did that again and again after each calamity. Every inch of land is soaked with the sweat of masses of people who had tilled it, and preserved it from floods, drought, typhoons.

Every time foreign aggressors, whatever their power, had invaded their native land, the Vietnamese people, irrespective of social standing, religion, ethnic origin, had stood up to defend their country, this land bequeathed to them by their forefathers, and on which they had toiled so hard. The uprisings of scholar patriots in the late 19th century were in the tradition of the insurrection of the two Trung sisters in the beginning of this era. In 1285, General Tran Binh Trong, taken prisoner by the Mongols and offered the greatest privileges in return for treason, replied, " I'd rather become a headless ghost in this land of Viet Nam than a prince in foreign land ! "; centuries later, the peasant Nguyen Trung Truc before being executed by French colonialists, cried out " So long as grass grows on this land, there will be men to rise up against foreign aggressors."

The French colonialists had thought they could break the Vietnamese people's will for independence by dividing Viet Nam, by creating " three Viet Nams" with different administrative regimes. After nearly a century of resistance, the Vietnamese people, in a magnificent upsurge, rose up to a man from North to South, knocking down all artificial barriers and restoring the unity of the country. On September 2, 1945, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was born, with a unified regime, a unified government, from Lang Son to Ca Mau, from Hanoi to Saigon.

AT present, in face of American aggression, the Vietnamese people not only defend a thousands-of-years-old legacy; they also defend their future. In the Northern half of the country, entirely liberated, hope is embodied in concrete forms and bears a precise name: socialism. In the liberated zones of the South, a new life has come into being under the sign of democracy. The peasants are masters of the land, the workers of their factories, the intellectuals can devote themselves entirely to their work, the women enjoy every right, the ethnic minorities are full-fledged citizens.

The myth of the " two Viet Nams" disseminated by Johnson, Rusk and their like will be shattered like the previous attempts at division.

At present, the Vietnamese people know that they are not only defending their national cause, but also the peace of the world. They know that they are guarding an outpost of the socialist camp and of the national liberation movement. They know that they are receiving broad international support. This age-old history which continues, this future which is taking shape, this international solidarity, this feeling that they are fulfilling sacred duties towards their own fatherland and those of other peoples as well, build for the Vietnamese fighters and people unshakable resolve and serene confidence in victory.

On this September 2, 1968, the Vietnamese people reaffirm with more confidence than ever the oath they made on September 2, 1945: to defend, to reconquer their independence and freedom at all costs !

THE STRENGTH OF A POLITICAL PROGRAMME

(Continued from page 1)

union and identity of mind: union of all social strata and classes, all political parties and mass organisations, all ethnic groups and religious communities, all patriotic and progressive forces, all patriotic personalities, even all individuals who still feel a shred of love for the fatherland. Identity of mind in the designation of the enemy, in the definition of the tasks and objectives of the struggle. Identity of mind in the proclamation of the 14 major policies regarding political, military, economic, agrarian, cultural and social questions and problems concerning the specific interests of different ethnic groups and religious sects and of various social strata, including ex-servicemen and civil servants in the pay of the U.S. imperialists, and foreign nationals. These 14 major policies fully constitute the tasks of the South Vietnamese revolution; they guarantee the legitimate rights of every citizen, and national independence and sovereignty. It is their appeal which instils incommensurable strength into the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

WHILE broadening the bases of national union, the line put forth in the Political Programme has enhanced the energy of the people and vouched for unprecedented successes to the revolution in South Viet Nam, which paved the way for final victory.

Published on August 20, 1967, that is on the eve of the elections to the " Presidency " and " Vice Presidency " of the " Republic of Viet Nam, " the Political Programme frustrated the manoeuvres painstakingly concocted by Washington to "legalise and constitutionalise" the puppet administration headed by Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky. In spite of the pressure and persecution exercised by a police apparatus of an unmistakable fascist character, the people in cities and areas still under the control of the U.S.-puppet forces boycotted the election farces staged by Washington.

Some time later, under the very nose of an over-sized administration and an army of over a million men, in spite of endless " sweeps " and " mopping-up " operations, in late 1967 and January 1968, the South Vietnamese people prepared with patience and success for the generalised attacks and uprisings in early Spring 1968. The mobilisation of millions of men and women involved in these mass actions would be inconceivable without the consciousness of almost all South Vietnamese, who have made their own the line laid down in the Political Programme.

A vivid proof of the outstanding part played by the people living in cities and areas still under enemy control in the successes scored in the course of last year and more specifically in the last seven months can be found in the second wave of the generalised attacks and uprisings in May 1968. Even though the U.S. aggressors and their puppets had awaited attack against Saigon and taken the most stringent precautions, they were unable to check it. While they expected a military attack coming from outside of the city, it was the politico-military forces of the city that began the assault with as support the revolutionary forces coming from outside. Units of people's militia in Saigon had prepared the terrain for the outside forces, and together with the latter, dealt extremely hard blows at the U.S.-puppets in the form of deadly strikes at the enemy's nerve points. One of these preparatory actions which proved to be very important was the liquidation of traitors, cruel thugs, top murderers operating in districts, provinces, towns and cities. Such operations were aimed on the one hand at neutralizing the enemy and on the other at releasing the potential force of the people. As a result, since the end of January 1968, the revolution has achieved greater and greater successes and the relation of forces has tipped more and more in its favour.

The U.S. possesses very powerful economic and military potentials indeed, but it is not an easy job to beef up indefinitely and at any moment the U.S. Expeditionary Corps in South Viet Nam. Then, emphasis was again put on the so-called " Vietnamization " of the war in South Viet Nam. But the puppet armed forces and administration — the quartermaster sergeant and prop of the U.S. aggressors — have been disintegrating at a quick rate. The puppet army has not only been bled heavily. Under the impact of the popular uprisings, patriotic feelings slumbering in the heart of each puppet soldier have been aroused and not a few armymen have refused battle, and sometimes whole companies and whole battalions have broken up or crossed over to the people's side. Many civil servants and even policemen and the odious " pacification " agents have also rallied the revolutionary forces and pledged to serve the people or to live a honest life.

While the neo-colonialist structure of the U.S. aggressors is crumbling by big chunks, the revolutionary forces grow rapidly and the people's power is set up on an ever spreading area. The N.F.L. major policies, until recently applied only in the liberated areas, now works its way even to the cities of Saigon, Hue and Da Nang, opening up to the people the bright prospects of a genuinely democratic regime. New energies have thus been released, new revolutionary forces have gone into action, the most representative of which is the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. The founding of this organisation which is attracting the broadest sections of the population of South Vietnamese cities, is, as President Ho Chi Minh put it in his July 20, 1968 appeal, " a great success creditable to the line of nation-wide unity against U.S. aggression for national salvation which has shed a stronger light on the nature of the U.S. and its lackeys as aggressors and traitors and further aggravated their isolation."

Ever since the publication of the N.F.L. Political Programme, the U.S. imperialists have received deadly blows in South Viet Nam, from which they will not be able to recover. The ground is giving way under their feet. The cities, which were their rear-bases, become scenes of bitter fighting and, progressively, the rear-bases of the revolution. Their defeat is inescapable .

What is the force which has succeeded in giving the war of resistance of our compatriots in the South this new turn, harbinger of ever more important victories and of final victory ? Naturally it is the boundless patriotism of the South Vietnamese people. Next, it is the correct political line.

Against the Political Programme, as formerly against the 10-point programme put out by the South Viet Nam N.F.L. following its founding in December 1960, the most vicious and most sophisticated warfare of the U.S. imperialists are of no avail. In the light of the line charted by the Political Programme, our 14 million Southern compatriots resolutely march forward, with unqualified confidence in final victory.

A P.L.A.F. recoilless-gun team

Can the Puppet Army Be Revived ?

WASHINGTON'S DAY DREAM

IF various statements of Messrs Johnson, Clifford, Abrams and Co. in the past few months were to be trusted one would be witnessing the miracle of resurrection of the puppet army, originally a bastard offspring of French colonialism, subsequently taken over by U.S. neo-colonialism, fed, uniformed, paid, armed and equipped by the U.S. and finally trained and commanded by officers from the Pentagon.

On August 15 last, the successor to McNamara once again boasted at a news conference held in Saigon and reported by *USIS* that he was very happy with " encouraging progress " made by the puppet army which he hoped would be soon able to relieve the American expeditionary corps in the war in South Viet Nam.

AN IMPERATIVE NEED OF A BATTERED AGGRESSOR

OBVIOUSLY, the overhauling of that one of the two pillars of the neo-colonialist war of aggression constitutes a major and urgent concern of Washington as indicated by the communique of the July Honolulu meeting between Johnson and his henchman, Nguyen Van Thieu.

It is a patent reality that the casualties of the expeditionary corps have become unbearable for the American ruling circles since they have, according to the 8th Special Communique of the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, reached the monthly rate of 20,000 killed, wounded or "missing" during the six months of general offensive and widespread uprisings of the South Viet Nam people. The impossibility to feed fresh substantial contingents of American boys to the guns in face of the growing discontent of the American people especially in this electoral year, has forced Johnson to turn to the puppet troops. What is more, the political considerations in the international arena also call for such a step since for Johnson who has already committed to South Viet Nam an expeditionary corps twice as considerable as the French one in 1954 it has become harder and harder to conceal the true nature of his colonial war. Breathing new life into the puppet army, such is the grand dream of the U.S. aggressors. However...

THE PUPPET ARMY'S LOSSES HAVE BEEN SO SERIOUS THAT ITS RECOVERY IS UNTHINKABLE

BETWEEN February and the end of July 1968, the P.L.A.F. and the insurgent urban population killed, wounded or captured more than 240,000 men of the puppet armed forces, or about one third of their total strength, let alone several hundred thousands of others who deserted. True, some of the wounded and AWOLs (absent without official leave) later rejoined their ranks, but the proportions of the losses are disastrous to the U.S. – puppets, all the more so as they were mainly inflicted on the enemy in the towns, last hide-outs of the aggressors and their henchmen.

A closer scruting shows that all categories of troops have been severely trounced.

The forces of " pacification " and coercion have been the hardest hit. From February to May, one thousand posts of " militia " and regional forces were overrun or forced to surrender. In Saigon, in May alone, more than 1,100 recalcitrant policemen were wiped out, among them such high-ranking janissaries as General Loan, chief of the "national" police, and later his successor. At present, the Thieu-Ky clique are still unable to restore the apparatus of coercion, especially in the rural areas.

The forces of the puppet general reserves have also been badly hurt. In the first six months of the general offensive, about two-thirds of their complement composed of Paratroopers, Marines and Rangers, were either wiped out or depleted. The U.S. puppets were forced to deploy the 20 remaining battalions of strategic reserve for the defence of Saigon. This, nevertheless, was not able to prevent the P.L.A.F. from launching their May offensive. Three battalions of the reserve were wiped out and 7 others lost over 50% of their strength, so much so that the U.S. command had to hastily throw several American brigades into the fighting right in the towns, at the risk of grave political inconveniences. Though flanked by U.S. units, these " elite " troops of the puppets continued to take heavy casualties. In Khe Sanh in April last, a whole multi-battalion unit of the puppet paras relying on the fire power of the First Cav. was nonetheless put out of action during Operation *Pegasus*.

Finally, **the ten regular infantry divisions** put at Saigon's disposal do not fare any better. Most of them only exist in name since they are below strength (50% in the case of certain divisions) as a result of the destruction or serious decimation of more than one-third of their battalions by the patriotic forces. Even the First Division which Clifford praised as " comparable to any U.S. division in the northern part of South Viet Nam " had to be completely replenished after the battle in Hue last February. Its weakness was so grave that ever since the U.S. command thought it better to incorporate it in a very dense defensive system around Hue essentially held by American troops, in the hope of saving it from fresh disintegration.

Can the serious losses inflicted by the P.L.A.F. be made good by Thieu's recent general mobilization decree ? Certainly not ! For this order in fact affects only a minor part of the population still living under the nominal control of the enemy. Those who will be unfortunate enough to get caught in round-ups and dragged into military training centres will never be of great use to the Americans !

THE PUPPET ARMY'S ORGANISATION AND COMMAND HAS BEEN UPSET

THE whole system of the puppet command has been critically shaken since the start of the general offensives and widespread uprisings. Successful attacks have been launched by the P. L. A. F. against the quasi-totality of the headquarters, from the War Ministry, the Joint Chiefs of Staffs, the HQs of the Marines to army corps and various divisions. The number of commanders of units, Staff officers, and officers of the psy-war services... put out of action has set an all-time record, especially concerning the 1st, 5th, and 7th divisions based respectively in Hue, Thu Dau Mot and My Tho. In June last the Saigon police was decapitated through the massacre of 11 of its high-ranking officers by a U.S. helicopter. Moreover, the puppet officers' training schools were also raided again and again, such as the schools of Thu Duc and Dalat and the military training centres in Hue, Quang Ngai, My Tho... In late April, the puppet command admitted that from 6 to 10 schools of officers and non-commissioned officers had not been able to resume functioning.

In a word, the disruption was so alarming that Thieu himself has set as prime task the " reorganisation of the army. " However, this turns out to be an uphill job. The internal strifes within the puppets' ranks, especially between Thieu and Ky, are among these negative factors that sow disorder in the puppet army. Sailing off the wind, Thieu has been seeking to discard the supporters of Ky and consolidate his position. A massive purge of the military chiefs of province under the pretext of the fight against corruption (on this score one can, indeed, strike without mistake, at any big sticks of the Saigon regime), a series of " transfers " in the rank of the commanders of army corps and divisions, these are as many strokes of fork that turned topsy-turvy the command apparatus of the puppets. As a result, the few officers with some combat experiences left in the Saigon army finally fall victims to the " purge " effected by Thieu and the Americans !

To make the picture complete, we should mention the role equally negative of the U.S. command. The different strategies which it has put into effect and which have been one after another thwarted by the patriotic forces, have had as only effect each time the shifting of the puppet army's assignment This has resulted in multiple modifications in the organisation and command of this wretched army of mercenaries.

Enemy vehicle set afire by P.L.A.F. in Saigon

THE MORAL COLLAPSE IS TOTAL AND DEFEATISM IS RAMPANT IN THE PUPPET ARMY

THIS is not a new phenomenon since more than three years ago, well-informed observers have rightly remarked that " the puppet army could not hold out for ten days if it was not for the presence of U.S. troops. "

However, since the beginning of the current lunar year, this trend has become more accentuated in the sense that the puppet army is in the process of extensive disintegration as proved by the formidable number of desertions, mutinies and revolts. In this respect, the total for the last six months exceeded those of 1966 and 1967 put together. On July 19, 1968 20 men of a unit of Regiment 54, stationed at the Quang Trung training centre near Hue, mutinied, killing many reactionary officers, and joined the patriots' ranks with full kit. Two days later, Battalion 3, Regiment 3, Division 1, so much praised by Clifford, refused to fight. A clash with the puppet repressive forces took place in which the latter had 17 wounded. The movement has even spread to many officers. In May last, officers and soldiers of two battalions in Ben Tre province refused to go up the line. On June 6, 1968, more than 400 graduates of the officers' training school of Thu Duc near Saigon defected and many of them later joined the P.L.A.F. On the 27th and 29th of the same month, two flight lieutenants of the puppet army landed on Cambodian soil and asked for political asylum.

The sight of half a million G.I.s forced onto the defensive around the towns and bases, of the successive dismissal of " talented " U.S. generals and of the rottening of the Saigon regime have undoubtedly contributed to the further sinking of the already very low morale of the troops. In such circumstances, it is understandable that every colonel of Saigon should see to his future by remitting his savings to foreign banks and by seeking, when the first opportunity occurs, safety in Hongkong or elsewhere with his family. This fugitive mood can only be aggravated by the new offensives of the P.L.A.F. and people.

The Americans want to lay the blame for the sagging morale of the puppet troops on the lack of modern armaments and think they can breathe into their mercenaries the " will to fight " through the supply of ultra-rapid M.16 carbines, and an increasing quantity of helicopters, armoured cars and cannons. But the truth is that the G.I.s for all these "novelties" galore have nevertheless got the soundest beating all along these three years. One wonders, therefore how the puppet troops, " rabbits " whose qualms of conscience are constantly exacerbated by the patriotic fight of their countrymen, can be turned overnight into " lions " full of aggressiveness.

A puppet army, strategic force of the neo-colonialist war of aggression of the U.S., has always been a thing of vital importance for Washington. Nevertheless, at present when it is finding itself caught in the revolutionary storm, all efforts to set upright this crippled puppet are inexorably doomed to failure. Whatever Johnson and Co. may say the wonder of a phoenix reborn from its ashes will never materialize in the case of the anti-national army of Saigon. Those of the American ruling circles who are naive enough to believe their own propaganda are only indulging in wishful thinking.

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

My Visits to Viet Nam

by MONIKA WARNENSKA
Polish writer

VIET NAM 1962... My first meeting with a far-away, yet so close, country, my first contact with a land until then known to me only through the writings of other Polish authors who had visited it before me: "Houses without Walls" (Dom bez scian) by Wojciech Zubrowski, which records pictures of fighting Viet Nam in 1953 - 1954; "Bamboo Thickets" (Drzaggi bambusa) by Miroslaw Zulawski, depicting the historic hour when the D.R.V.N. government and the Viet Nam People's Army returned to Hanoi in the autumn of 1954. I also knew Viet Nam through such Polish films shot by Helena Lemanska and Wladyslaw Forbert as "Letters from Viet Nam" (Listy wietnamskie) and "My Brother Bamboo" (Bambus, moj brat). Then, the first concrete lesson about Viet Nam: I was given the opportunity to travel for two months, from Lao Cai to Dien Bien Phu, from Viet Bac to the 17th parallel — Vinh Linh, Ho Xa, Cua Tung, the Hien Luong bridge. The extraordinary efforts put up by the people to rebuild their country in peace reminded me, a Polish woman, of our own hardships in the years immediately following the end of the Second World War: rebuilding our capital city which had been 90% destroyed, and other cities which had been bombed to rubble, healing the wounds of war. News from Viet Nam kept telling me that the Viet Nam problem was far from being solved, and that the 1946-1954 resistance war against the French colonialists was not yet the final part of the history of this country's resistance to foreign aggression. A demarcation line divided the country, a provisional one of course, but the cause of as much bitterness, sorrow and injustice as any boundary in the world. This demarcation line was the 17th parallel, which divided almost every Vietnamese family, keeping kith and kin separated from each other. That first concrete lesson I got about Viet Nam in the spring of 1962 brought forth my first book about this country. The 17th parallel suggested the title of the book: "Bridge on the River Ben Hai" (Most na rzece Ben Hai). In early 1965, I had my first encounter with the war. The hateful, familiar, smell of burning. The hateful, familiar scream of bombers swooping down. Before the ruins in Ho Xa, Dong Hoi, Nam Dinh I remembered the heaps of debris in Warsaw and other cities and villages of Poland. Then I travelled to the liberated zones of South Viet Nam. I witnessed facts in the daily struggle of the National Front for Liberation. At every step, I saw the truth about the solidarity and unity of the Vietnamese people in their fight.

In 1966-1967, I had many meetings with my readers in the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Sweden and the German Federal Republic. I had to answer so many questions about Viet Nam! One kept coming back: "How has Viet Nam been able to hold out? A poor and backward country still suffering from the aftermath of a quite recent colonial regime, and now having to stand up to one of the biggest powers in the world! So much stee and fire, bombs and dollars have been poured on Viet Nam, and yet the people remain indomitable! How often Johnson has boasted to the world that he will bring both North and South Viet Nam to their knees, only to turn himself into a laughingstock!" The question was often mingled with doubts: for how long would the Vietnamese people be able to resist, as the American war machine was increasing its fury?

It is at the same time easy and difficult to answer such a question. It is easy to say that the Vietnamese people's resistance strength stems from patriotism, boundless self-sacrifice, socialist discipline, valour and courage, and the fact that individual interests give way to the greatest and most lofty of all interests: those of the fatherland. But European readers are thirsty of facts. They want to know all the truth. Thanks to such mass media as the radio, the press and especially television, they receive fresh news of all developments in the world. The American propaganda machine never ceases functioning, like their arms factories. To European readers, one must present the daily facts of Viet Nam's struggle; one must keep them informed of the truth in Viet Nam's resistance, as embodied in all aspects of life. News reports are not enough. Official declarations don't say much to our readers. It is necessary to bring out the facts in the daily struggle, which includes both active resistance and passive defence, and which is expressed in communications and transport, supply, medical work, child welfare, educational and cultural development, agriculture and in production as a whole. Every war brings about changes in the country and makes things progress. A number of pictures that I brought back from Viet Nam to Poland and Europe in the autumn of 1965 gradually lost their topical interest. And that is why I came back to Viet Nam in 1967. I travelled 7,000 kilometres in the midst of the war. And now I am again in Viet Nam as a war correspondent.

Six months in 1967, in the war of resistance: a trip from Dien Bien Phu to Vinh Linh and the 17th parallel. It was a new lesson for me about Viet Nam. Everywhere I met destruction, everywhere life was stronger than death. Everywhere I witnessed work and resistance. In this war in which an entire nation, a whole society is standing up to such a powerful aggressor, every fact has its meaning. The young missile units and air force of Viet Nam defending Hanoi and Haiphong; life in mountain grottoes in the Northwest Autonomous Region, near Dien Bien Phu and Son La, where there was not a single European correspondent when war escalation began. A night train rolling amidst bombs and shells; transport work, roads, ferries, bridges, streams of bicycles and lorries on which hangs permanent threat; fishermen swimming in the water under a hail of projectiles; operations being performed in underground hospitals; classes being conducted also in underground rooms; dykes and dams being repaired under hails of bombs and shells; the harvest in Vinh Linh, a frontline zone, under showers of napalm and phosphorus... Truly amazing is the Vietnamese people's organisational abilities, truly amazing are their faculties of adaptation to wartime conditions and their ripostes to enemy attacks and crimes: during the whole of my trip last year, such images were engraved in my mind at every one of my steps, and instilled into myself and those of my readers I had occasion to come into contact with an overwhelming feeling of admiration and respect.

In my present journey, I also witness similar phenomena, but it is still too early to sum up. One thing is certain: the Vietnamese people's determination to fight and win has not been impaired in the least. Organisational work in all fields of wartime activity is clearly equal to the situation.

No country like Viet Nam has given me such deep emotion and reminded me so much of my own country. Poland is one of the countries in Europe which have suffered the most from the war. We lost six million lives. Our nation is one of those in Europe which rose up against the war of aggression of the Hitlerite fascist. In Viet nam's ravaged cities, I see our own capital city, Warsaw, in 1945. When South Vietnamese friends tell me about the tortures they went through in Chi Hoa jail in Saigon or in the Poulo Condore island penitentiary, I hear the screams of my compatriots in Gestapo slaughter houses and concentration camps in Oswiencim and Majdanek, Bochemilada and Ravensbruck. We have rebuilt our country from the war ruins. We still lack many things. That is why in Poland the word Viet Nam resounds like a call. That is why every appeal to help Viet Nam elicits the broadest response. People of all walks of life and all ages, from young pioneers and schoolboys to old folks, contribute to his aid. Workers work extra hours to produce necessities for Viet Nam, students and soldiers donate their blood, war invalids and former inmates of Nazi concentration camps work for Viet Nam. Numberless actions showing solidarity and friendship with Viet Nam can be seen in Poland, as in other socialist countries: the Soviet Union, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria... Our countries are the rear area for the Viet Nam front, and we are proud of the role we are playing.

Friends, comrades, brothers and sisters, I have attended ceremonies celebrating Viet Nam's National Day both in Warsaw and Hanoi. This year on this solemn day, I happen to be in the Fourth Zone. Remember that in these days we stand by our side, we your friends in far-away yet so close countries, countries that are consistently advancing on the road of socialism. Especially we the people of Poland are standing by our side: like you we feel deeply imbued with the simple and clear truth contained in President Ho Chi Minh's words, these fine words so full of vitality which will stand in the first page of the book I have written about Viet Nam and entitled "The Fourth Zone": "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."

August 1968

In the United States

12,000 Antiwar Youths Demonstrate in Chicago, Site of Democratic Party Convention

ON the night of August 26, in Chicago, just when the Democratic Party Convention was meeting, over 12,000 youths and students from all parts of the U.S. staged a demonstration for an immediate end to U.S. government's war of aggression in Viet Nam.

About 500 people displaying the South Viet Nam N.F.L. flag and chanting "Ho Chi Minh," "We won't go" marched from Lincoln Park to Hilton Hotel where the Democratic Party was holding its convention.

The police used tear gas against the demonstrators. Many clashes took place. The action was the first of the series of anti-Viet Nam war rallies planned by the masses on the occasion of the Democratic Party Convention.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

FOUNDING CONGRESS OF DA NANG COMMITTEE OF ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES

IN the closing days of August 1968, the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces of Da Nang city held its congress in a locality in the vicinity of the city, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. It was attended by 84 delegates of all sections of the city people, religious dignitaries, businessmen and industrialists, clergymen and followers of various religions, students and pupils, and members of the puppet army and administration.

The City Congress hotly debated the National Salvation Manifesto and communique of the Alliance Congress and the tasks ahead. It also elected the City Committee of the Alliance.

The City Congress unanimously approved the declaration of the Da Nang Alliance which wrote: "We eagerly call on all our fellow citizens in Da Nang, regardless of political tendency, creed and material circumstances, for the sake of the great national cause, to pool their efforts, energetically support the national salvation policy of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, close their ranks, continue the glorious tradition of the nation and the city in order to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration and establish a genuine national and democratic coalition government of the people and for the people. We call on all the members of the army and police of the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet regime in Da Nang to try to see the truth and make a difference between the right and the wrong, to leave the ranks of the aggressors and traitors to the country, cross over to the side of the people and put their energy and talent at the service of the Fatherland."

Hung Vuong Position Razed to the Ground

Editor's Note. — *On the night of June 16, 1968, the P.L.A.F. in My Tho province attacked and destroyed the Hung Vuong entrenched camp with the help from within of patriotic armymen. Following is an account of this military feat of the P.L.A.F. and the insurgent troops.*

THE Hung Vuong military stronghold was a key U.S. - puppet position commanding and guarding the Western side of My Tho provincial capital (60km Southwest of Saigon). Three thousand enemy troops were massed there, with Battalions 2 and 3 of Regiment 11, puppet Division 7, and puppet Artillery Battalion 72 as main force. Three security forces and intelligence companies guarding a military training camp were also stationed in this sector. The base had been used as a staging area for daily sweeps and counter-attacks against the P.L.A.F., and innumerable crimes had been perpetrated by U.S.-puppet troops against the local people.

That night, in the dim light of the last-quarter moon, the Liberation fighters of Unit X quietly closed in on the enemy defence perimeter. Upon reaching destination, they split up into many groups and scrambled toward the gates left open by the waiting insurgent troops. The unit commander approached Hai who was responsible for that night's coordinated action, and asked in a low voice, "Is it time? No change in the plan?" Hai nodded and said, with a smile, "You've come in good time. Let's go into action right now!" He signed to other soldiers to show the various columns in. He handed several quick-firing sub-machineguns to some Liberation fighters, then gave the signal with his hand. He pointed his sub-machinegun at a puppet machine-gunner who was busy with his weapon and pulled the trigger. The man could only give out a gasp before dropping flat on the ground.

The gun fire rent the darkness and at the same time gave the go-signal to the attack. Groups of puppet soldiers emerged from the billeting area in confusion. A Liberation fighter quickly emptied a magazine in their direction. Three or four of them tumbled down. Hai dashed forward and snatched the heavy machinegun from the dead gunner, sweeping with a searing fusillade the enemy troops who were assembling at the left corner of the yard. Many more adverse troops were mowed down. Liberation shock troops surged forward; many of them fought their way into enemy fortifications for hand-to-hand combat with the die-hards. Bayonets and rifle butts clashed amidst enemy screams. Grenades exploded in quick succession. A detachment of Liberation fighters hurled the grenades seized from the enemy into pockets of resistance, silencing the enemy guns.

Teams of insurgent troops were seen here and there, followed by the spearheads of Liberation shock squads. They broke into commanding posts, office buildings and the lodgings of U.S. advisers. Bursts of sub-machinegun fire were mingled with the deafening explosions of grenades thrown by the Liberation fighters and followed up by the yells of the fleeing enemy troops.

The heavy machinegun manned by Hai continued to spit a deadly fire, pinning down groups of enemy troops who were beating their retreat. Meanwhile, the Liberation fighters pressed forward, and moving through the burning installations and across the barbed wire entanglements, they made a deep thrust into the central sector of the enemy headquarters. Anti-tank shells whizzed and rent the shadows of the night, blowing up enemy pockets of resistance and sending big chunks of walls and tile-roofs of the barracks flying.

The din of the fighting was deafening with the attacking forces sounding their charge. The pungent smell of petrol and burning wood mixed with that of the explosives from amms dumps filled the air. 40 minutes later, the fighting subsided. In the glare of the burning barracks, groups of puppet soldiers were seen emerging from the ruins, with a down-cast look and their hands up. U.S. advisers were seen among the surrendering troops.

The Hung Vuong base now looked like a huge monster which was writhing in pain from the bleeding wounds inflicted by the Liberation and mutineers of the puppet army. Bodies of dead enemy soldiers littered the battlefield. All told, 1,200 adverse troops were killed, wounded or captured. Battalions 2 and 3 were badly mauled. Several security forces companies were chopped to pieces. The position of Artillery Battalion 72 was shattered, the training camp and a number of ware houses and barracks were reduced to heaps of ashes.

This military exploit instilled great enthusiasm into the insurgent troops who felt a legitimate satisfaction because they had been able to render a meritorious service to the Revolution. They marched side by side with the Liberation fighters, carrying a big haul of war trophies on their shoulders. When the local people turned out to welcome them and praise the feat they had so bravely accomplished, pride and elation were shining in their eyes.

Brilliant Victories in Tay Ninh and All Over South Viet Nam

(Continued from page 8)

city now encircled from many sides.

Fierce fighting had been going on around Da Nang since August 23. The U.S. air base known as the biggest in South-East Asia, was plastered and P.L.A.F. commandos reached the runway and caused serious losses to the enemy. The helicopter park at **Nuoc Man**, west of the city, was also shelled.

Near the "Marble Mountain", 5km southeast of Da Nang, in the small hours of August 23, the P.L.A.F. flattened a strongly defended position, wiping out a puppet Ranger battalion, killing or wounding 350 enemy troops and seizing or destroying all their arms and ammunition.

In these few days, nearly all enemy military targets northwest, south and southeast of Da Nang came under fire, including **Xuan Thieu** airfield, **Cam Le** bridge and many artillery emplacements.

At least a dozen district capitals in the provinces of **Quang Nam** and **Quang Tin** (southern part of Quang Nam now split in another province) were raided by the P.L.A.F. The U.S. military bases at **Chu Lai** and **Ky Ha** (H.Q. of Division *Americal* and many positions held by that division were assaulted or bombarded. *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported that at least 3 battalion C.P.'s, a U.S. company and armoured squadron had been wiped out, many hundred G.I.'s killed or wounded, 42 tanks and armoured carriers and 5 howitzers destroyed and 6 aircraft downed.

In the province next to Quang Ngai, the P.L.A.F. also carried the day in two engagments.

After annihilating a puppet company at **Go Huynh**, 8km west of Quang Ngai town, the patriotic forces on August 22 routed all enemy rescue parties coming from various directions: 7 puppet, companies were put out of action and Battalion 4, Regiment 4, puppet Division 2, wiped out.

The next day, in four engagements in **Binh Son** district, north of Quang Ngai, a battalion of U.S. Brigade 198 suffered the same fate. Two U.S. brigades were badly mauled, 450 G.I.'s killed or wounded, 5 howitzers and 6 armoured cars destroyed.

In the two provinces in the northernmost part of South Viet Nam, two P.L.A.F. artillery actions were reported by *Giai Phong* Press Agency on August 23: one against **Quang Tri** town, the **Ai Tu** and **Phu Bai** airfields, and the other against 5 U.S. bases. In six days between August 15 and 25, over 800 G.I.'s were knocked out of action on **Highway No 9.** 40km southeast of Hue, on August 17, the P.L.A.F overran Mui Ne position, wiping out 2 U.S. motorized infantry companies (250 American casualties), destroying 9 howitzers and seizing all arms and ammunition.

Latest reports disclosed that the enemy had lost in his attempt at seizing **A So** from August 4 to 19, 1,250 men put out of action and 28 planes and helicopters downed.

In these two provinces, guerillas also depleted the aggressors who had, in the first half of August, 600 men killed or wounded, 10 planes and choppers downed and 30 vehicles destroyed.

P.L.A.F. in pursuit of the enemy

All for Victory over U.S. Aggressors!

Brilliant Victories in Tay Ninh and All Over South Viet Nam

- ★ **Massive Destruction of U.S. Armoured Units Continues:**
  - **—387 Vehicles Destroyed or Captured on August 22 and 25 in Tay Ninh Area (in 4 Engagements)**
  - **—173 Military Vehicles Put out of Action Near Pleiku (in 2 Engagements).**
- ★ **6 Battalions (4 American and 2 Puppet) Wiped Out in 2 Days (August 22 and 23).**
- ★ **Patriotic Forces Storm Beleaguered Da Nang and Periphery.**

TAY NINH FRONT

Massive Destruction of Enemy Forces and War Materiel: from August 18 to 25, Nearly 4,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action, 596 Military Vehicles and 37 Big Guns Destroyed, 25 Planes and Helicopters Downed.

SUCH was the battle count of the first 8 days of P.L.A.F. offensive in that province (partly covered by our last issue).

Giai Phong Press Agency reported a series of brilliant victories won last week by the P.L.A.F. in that sector. Here are more details:

– On August 22, five minutes after O hour, **Tra Phi** camp (7 km northeast of Tay Ninh) was subjected to a second attack. After about 2 hours of fierce fighting, the P.L.A.F. got control of the terrain, wiping out a mixed battalion composed of the C.P. of the base and 6 infantry, armoured and artillery companies, destroying 96 vehicles and 10 cannons and causing nearly 600 American casualties.

Meanwhile the P.L.A.F. launched a violent onslaught against **Go Cay Da**, U.S. base of operation near **Cha La** (reported in our last issue), and inflicted heavy losses on the U.S. forces: over 600 G.I.s killed or wounded, 140 armoured vehicles and lorries and 18 heavy guns destroyed; Artillery Battalion 7, 2 motorized infantry companies and a *Seabees'* unit were wiped out.

Further southeast, also on the night of August 21, a puppet Ranger battalion was decimated at **Cau Khoi** while at **Trang Lon**, northwest of Tay Ninh, a U.S. artillery base was silenced by a heavy bombardment of the P.L.A.F. The enemy had in Tay Ninh on August 22, 2 U.S. battalions (11 infantry, artillery and armoured companies), a brigade H.Q. and a battalion C.P. wiped out, 28 ordnance pieces and 236 military vehicles (mostly armoured cars) destroyed and 4 choppers downed.

– On August 24, a little after midnight, in 15 minutes' assault the patriotic forces won control of a fortified camp at **Trang Truong** (25km east of Tay Ninh, on **Dau Tieng** road) after wiping out the camp C.P. and 2 U.S. companies, killing or wounding 250 G.I.'s and destroying 36 tanks and armoured cars.

Meanwhile, the U.S. camp at **Ong Hung** met with similar fate: 200 G.I.'s killed or wounded, 40 vehicles destroyed, 4 choppers downed. Total enemy losses of the day ran to over 450 G.I.'s put out of action, 96 vehicles destroyed and 4 choppers downed.

– August 25 was a particularly disastrous day for U.S. armoured cars: from 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on a 3km section of Road No 22, at **Da Hang** (25km southeast of Tay Ninh), the P.L.A.F. fought 3 battles in which they entirely wiped out a convoy of 120 lorries and armoured cars, depleted heliborne reinforcements and fought back a motorized column sent in reinforcement: 133 vehicles destroyed, 8 armoured cars seized, 7 choppers and a spotter downed and 350 G.I.'s killed, wounded or captured. In a neighbouring province, 80km northeast of Tay Ninh, the enemy beleaguered at **Loc Ninh** townlet tried on August 23 several sallies which were all beaten back. The P.L.A.F. neatly wiped out a U.S. battalion and captured many prisoners. Previously on the night of 17, this district capital had been occupied by the P.L.A.F. and the U.S. "special forces" camp assaulted and up to August the enemy lost in this sector 600 (300 American) casualties, 24 vehicles destroyed, 5 planes and helicopters downed or damaged.

Further east, the provincial capital of **Phuoc Long** was shelled and **Phuoc Binh** townlet occupied by the P.L.A.F. on August 22.

WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX

Duc Lap District Capital Occupied and Dac Sac Airfield Completely Destroyed: 7 Puppet and 6 Platoons Wiped Out, 16 Aircraft Downed, 23 Military Vehicles Destroyed in 4 Days. 173 U.S. Armoured Cars and Lorries Put out of Action on August 23 in Pleiku Area.

SOUTHWEST of the Western High Plateaux, the P.L.A.F. mounted on the night of August 22 a sustained attack against **Duc Lap** district capital, 204km north-northeast of Saigon, and **Dac Sac** airfield, 6km farther. **Gia Nghia** provincial capital and many district capitals were stormed between August 23 and 26.

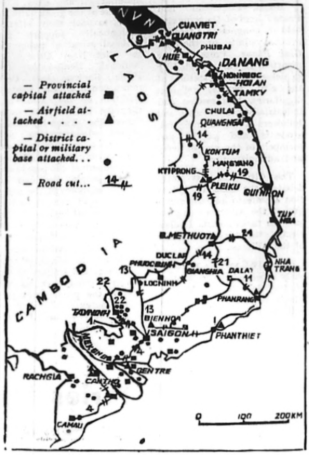
The P.L.A.F. occupied Duc Lap and took a toll of 300 enemy soldiers (2 companies put out of action) in the first day. Dac Sac airfield fell to the patriotic forces who completely destroyed it.

Between August 23 and 26, the enemy in **Quang Duc** province lost 7 companies and 2 platoons wiped out, 16 aircraft including 6 jets downed and 23 military vehicles and many ammunition depots destroyed.

55km to the northeast, **Ban Me Thuot** town and its airfield were the targets of several P.L.A.F. strikes, on the night of August 22.

North of the Western High Plateaux, in two fierce battles on August 23, the U.S. had 172 motorized vehicles destroyed.

At **K'ti Prong**, in a daring coup de main of the P.L.A.F. on a U.S. armoured car park 6km north of Pleiku, 133 vehicles were destroyed and 50 G.I.'s killed or wounded after half an hour's fighting In an ambush along **Road No 19** linking **Pleiku** to **Qui Nhon**, the P.L.A.F. entirely wiped out an enemy military convoy east of **Mang Yang** mountain pass, destroying 40 armoured cars and trucks. In this third ambush by the P.L.A.F. in this sector since August 14, 93 vehicles were destroyed.



Main targets of P.L.A.F. strikes between August 18 and 25

Also on August 23, many enemy positions in Pleiku and its surroundings were assaulted including 3 commanding organs and an airfield. The same day, **Kontum** town, 40km north of Pleiku, the airfield and military sector C.P. were heavily pounded by P.L.A.F. artillery at the same time as 2 other U.S. positions and an airstrip. Ten U.S. military vehicles were destroyed on the same day in a P.L.A.F. ambush on **Road No 14** north of Kontum.

COASTAL PROVINCES OF TRUNG BO

Patriotic Forces Attack Da Nang and 7 out of 8 Provincial Capitals: Three Battalions Including One of U.S. Brigade 198 Wiped Out.

BETWEEN August 21 and 28 the P.L.A.F. hammered at almost all the coastal towns and cities of that region: **Phan Thiet** and **Phan Rang** (night of August 20), **Quang Ngai** (22), **Tuy Hoa, Qui Nhon, Tam Ky, Hoi An** and **Da Nang** (23). They won their most brilliant victories in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces.

In Da Nang, a city where the Yankees make up one-tenth of the population, on the night of August 22, the P.L.A.F. succeeded in breaking through enemy "barrages" and reaching the centre of the city where, with the assistance of the inhabitants, they launched a surprise attack against the radio station, the H.Q. of Da Nang special zone, the military and administrative offices and the helicopter park. U.S. tanks were destroyed by bazookas in main thoroughfares of the town where street fighting was raging in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd districts. Traitors and cruel policemen were rounded up and punished by the inhabitants; hundreds of enemy troops were put out of action. Puppet Ranger Battalion 39, and field police suffered heavy losses. The coercive apparatus of the enemy was destroyed in at least six town districts and many streets were entirely in the hands of the people's forces who up to August 27 still tightly controlled some sectors of the city and solidly held the gates of the

(*Continued page 7*)

PEACE, UNITY, INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND PROSPERITY TO VIET NAM!

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